Ysgol Bro Tawe

School Prospectus

Prosbectws yr Ysgol

2025– 2026

Contents

Mission Statement 6
"Learning to Live, Living to Learn / Dysgu i Fyw, Byw i Ddysgu" 6
Organisational Principles 6
School Governors / Estyn 8
Ysgol Bro Tawe PTA 9
Admissions 9
Joining the School later on 10
Transfer to High School 10
The School Day 11
Breakfast Club 11
Emergency School Closure 11
Attendance 12
Absence & Illness 12
Health and Safety 13
School Meals 14
Uniform 15
PE Kit 16
Home-School Contacts 16
Medical Provision 17
Medication in school 17
Home/School Agreement 17
Curriculum for Wales
20
Additional Learning Needs 21
Arrangements for Religious Education 22
Equal Opportunities 28
Disabled Access 29
Complaints Procedure 29
Child Protection 29
Homework 30
Conclusion 31
School Calendar 2022 - 2023 32
Appendices
Home School Agreement
Homework Policy

Ysgol Bro Tawe Primary School
Ffordd yr Afon
Ystradgynlais

office@brotawe.powys.sch.uk
www.brotawe.powys.sch.uk

Welcome / Croeso

It gives me great pleasure to present to you via this prospectus, some information about the school. This handbook is intended to help you know more about the life and work at Ysgol Bro Tawe. At our school we hope to provide a caring environment for your child.

We endeavour to provide a wide range of balanced learning opportunities for all children to help them grow into independent and responsible people. A good and active home and school communicating relationship is vital to foster a sense of partnership between parent and teacher to ensure the best possible environment.

Of course, no prospectus can answer all your questions or convey the atmosphere or ethos of our school - a visit is therefore essential.

After reading this handbook you might want further information. If so, you may contact the school, where I will be more than happy to answer any of your questions.

You are warmly invited to call or telephone the school to make an appointment. I shall be delighted to meet you and provide you with a guided tour of Ysgol Bro Tawe.

The information given here is correct at the time of publication. It cannot be assumed however, that there will be no changes in the arrangements described during the course of the school year.

Mrs Bethan Evans
Headteacher

Welcome / Croeso

Pleser o'r mwyaf yw cyflwyno y llawlyfr yma i chi. Pwrpas y llawlyfr hwn yw eich cynorthwyo i wybod mwy am fywyd a gwaith Ysgol Bro Tawe.

Yn ein hysgol ni ein nod yw darparu awyrgylch gysurus ar gyfer eich plentyn er mwyn hybu ei ddatblygiad ysbrydol, moesol, diwylliannol a chorfforol. Mae perthynas gyfathrebol dda rhwng y cartref a'r ysgol yn hanfodol i feithrin y syniad o bartneriaeth rhwng rhiant ag athro, i sicrhau yr awyrgylch orau bosib.

Mae yma ysgol arbennig o hapus a chartrefol, ysgol sy'n weithgar yn y gymuned ac ysgol sy'n meddwl ac yn symud gyda'r amser.

Ar ôl darllen y llawlyfr hwn efallai y byddech yn dymuno cael mwy o wybodaeth. Os felly, gallwch gysylltu a'r ysgol i siarad a fi, neu'r dirprwy brifathrawes Miss Jemma Williams.

Mae yma ysgol agored iawn gyda pherthynas agos, adeiladol rhwng rhieni ac athrawon.

Mae croeso i chi drefnu i ymweld â'r ysgol i drafod addysg eich plentyn.

Mrs Bethan Evans
Pennaeth

YSGOL BRO TAWE SCHOOL STAFF

TEACHERS

Mrs B. Evans	Headteacher
Miss J. Williams	Deputy Headteacher (Currently on Secondment)
Mrs. L. Morgan	Acting Deputy Headteacher
Mrs. K. Hyett	
Mrs. K.L. Davies	
Mrs. R. Watts	
Mrs. R. Davies	
Mrs H. Holsgrove	
Mr O. Wright	

CANOLFAN HEULWEN - ASC CENTRE

Mrs K. Morgan – Teacher in Charge
Mrs S. Colby - Teacher in Charge
Miss. S. Morris – Teaching Assistant
Miss P. Leech – Teaching Assistant
Miss S. Andrews – Lunchtime Supervisor

UNQUALIFIED TEACHERS

Mrs. R. Evans
Mrs. M. O'Connor

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Mrs. S. Clayton
Mrs. M. Jones
Miss. A. Moss
Mrs. H. Morgan
Mrs R. Davies
Miss S. Rees
Miss T Morgan

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Mrs. K. Walsh

PERIPATETIC STAFF

Mrs. L. Alexander (Music)

CLEANERS

Mrs. P Newman
Mr D. Teague
Mr D. Rees

CARETAKER

Mr. P Tibbett

KITCHEN STAFF

Mrs. P Newman
Mrs. J Teague
Mrs. N. Davies
Mrs S. Jenkins

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Powys Education Department
Powys County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG
(01597) 826000

Mission Statement

"Learning to Live, Living to Learn / Dysgu i Fyw, Byw i Ddysgu"

Aims

The school appreciates that by the time your children join us they will have learned a great deal in the home and with their families. We seek to build upon and further develop that initial learning. Our basic intention is therefore to try to help each child realise his/her potential.

We attempt to achieve this goal by:-

Providing a learning environment where:-

- Each child is valued for what he/she brings to school;
- There is pleasure, security and success;
- Opportunities are equal for all;
- Discipline is firm but fair.

Providing a curriculum that:-

- Is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated.
- Is flexible enough to respond to the need for change;
- Can equip each pupil for the challenges of the future.
- Introduces the values of citizenship, self-esteem, courtesy, good manners, respect and consideration for others.

Creating a good team of teaching and non-teaching staff who:-

- Work well together;
- Use their expertise to the full;
- Have as their first priority the needs of all pupils in the school.

Underlining that in the education of their children:-

- School and home is engaged in a co-operative partnership.
- School and home work together for the same goal and thus providing the best educational opportunities the school can produce.

Organisational Principles

As a school which strives to realise high expectations for all we believe that it is vital to have a shared commitment to a set of core principles or values which underpin our aims. These principles apply to everything we do in school and to everyone who is a part of our school community. They form the bedrock of our thinking and provide a set of test measures against which we judge our performance and an aspiration towards which we reach.

Equality
Quality
Safety
Respect
Effectiveness

The School

Ysgol Bro Tawe opened in September 2012. The medium of education throughout the school is English as a first language with Welsh being taught as a second language.

Externally the school is situated on a well-designed site and the grounds provide a valuable environmental learning resource including; a multi-use games area, Infant/Junior playgrounds, forest schools area, willow area and field.

The accommodation includes:

- 10 classrooms
- A good-sized hall
- ALN room
- Library area
- School office
- Staff room
- School kitchen
- Canolfan Heulwen (ASC Centre)
- Little Steps Playgroup

School Governors

County Cllr Susan McNicholas	Chair of Governors LEA Governor
Mrs S Speedy	Vice Chair of Governors LEA Governor
Mrs B Evans	Headteacher
Mrs H Holsgrove	Teacher Governor
Mr D. Barbeau	Community Governor
Mr C Jones	Community Governor
Ms K Irvine	Community Governor
Mrs L Watkins	Parent Governor
Mrs A Hosford-Allen	Parent Governor
Ms G Burdett	Parent Governor
Mr. M Shrewsbury	Minor Authority Governor
Mr S. Thomas	LEA Governor
Miss S. Rees	Staff Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor

Estyn

The school was inspected by Estyn during February 2024
You can read the full report at:
https://estyn.gov.wales/education-providers/ysgol-bro-tawe

The provision for pupils' well-being at Ysgol Bro Tawe is exemplary.

Pupils enjoy attending school.

Recommendations

- R1 – Ensure that all pupils are suitably challenged to extend their learning within lessons.
- R2 – Ensure that the mathematics curriculum is broad and balanced.

Leaders and teachers have a clear vision for the school curriculum focused on motivating everyone to do their best and reach their full potential.

Teachers know the pupils well and plan an effective range of intuitive and innovative approaches

Positive relationships pervade the school community and contribute significantly to pupils' attainment, happiness and well-being.

Pupils are caring, accepting and respectful to each other, staff and visiting adults

Ysgol Bro Tawe PTA

The school has an enthusiastic Parent-Teacher Association and every parent is invited to participate in its activities. Contrary to much popular belief, the P.T.A. does not exist purely in a 'fund-raising' capacity. However, this aspect of its aims must never be under-valued and the school sincerely appreciates the excellent support received over the years.

The main aims of the P.T.A. are as follows

- To develop a greater understanding between parents and teacher.
- To help parents understand current trends in teaching and general education of children.
- To provide parents with a wider knowledge of educational provisions made nationally and locally.
- To encourage activities of all kinds to promote the education and welfare of our children.
- To assist the school in maintaining amenities, through financial and other help, not forthcoming in the usual way.

Admissions

Upon entry to Ysgol Bro Tawe, parents are required to complete registration and medical forms in full for each child.

This is very important since it provides us with essential information about contact telephone numbers in case of an emergency.
It is also important at this stage to note any particular conditions or needs a child may have e.g. allergies, dietary.

We also ask that parents complete a home/school agreement which clearly states expectations for the child and how the school and parents can work together in order to maximise the child's potential

In Powys, a child may be admitted to school on a full-time basis at the beginning of the Autumn Term after the child has had their fourth birthday. Parents must apply for entry into school to Powys County Council. Applications can be made at https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place . Appeals may be made to the County if a child is refused entry to the school.
Further information regarding admission arrangements can be found in the Powys Handbook for Parents, which is available on the Powys website at www.powys.gov.uk

Starting School for the First Time

Starting school is a very important time for you, your child and the school. We all need to work together to make the transition smooth and rewarding.

The Foundation Age Curriculum is based upon active learning. Through practical activities, purposeful play and talk, pupils develop an understanding of the world and the basic concepts they will need for their later learning. Parents/Carers can play a major role in fostering good attitudes to learning, developing good language skills and promoting good behaviour.

Joining the School later on

Sometimes children join the school when the term has started or later on in their school life. We make every effort to make sure that they are welcomed, looked after and monitored so that they quickly make friends and can find their way around the school. Teachers give pupils time to settle in before making a baseline assessment of their ability. This assessment, together with records from the previous school will enable your child to have the best start in our school. Parents and carers are asked to contact the school if their child has a problem settling. We are keen to promote an active partnership with parents.

Transition to High School

When children in Year 6 transfer to the secondary school of their choice, every effort is made to prepare them for this exciting move. Staff from Ysgol Maesydderwen visit the school and the children, in turn, spend several days at the secondary school during their final year at Bro Tawe. Our Transition plan can be found on our website.
Our aim at Ysgol Bro Tawe is to have equipped our pupils with the life skills necessary to cope with the transfer and enable them to fulfill their potential in whatever they choose to do.

The School Day

The school day routine is as follows:

8 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. Breakfast Club
Teachers will be on duty on the yard from 8.45 onwards.

Foundation Age Department

8.55 - 12.15 Morning Session
10.40 – 11.00 Snack and playtime
12.15 – 1.15 Lunch
1.15 - 3.25 Afternoon session
2.50 – 3:10 Playtime (This is subject to change daily, dependent on the activities planned)

Years 3 to 6

8.55 - 12.15 Morning Session
10.40 – 11.00 Playtime
12.15 – 1.15 Lunch
1.15 - 3.25 Afternoon session

The recommended minimum laid down by the Welsh Office is twenty one hours at Foundation Age and twenty three and a half hours for learners in Years 3 to 6.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club offers parents the opportunity to drop the children off before school. The Club operates between 8.00 a.m. and 8.45 a.m. The charge is £1.00 per child, per day. (The charge will not apply to children who qualify for Free School Meals)
Breakfast includes cereals, toast and fruit juice.
Children are fully supervised during this time and a variety of activities are planned for the children to enjoy.

Emergency School Closure

Occasionally, usually due to extreme weather conditions or utility failures, it is necessary to close the school, sometimes at short notice. In the event of this happening:
A message is sent via Schoop, the school's messaging app.
A message is placed on the homepage of the school website: www.brotawe.powys.sch.uk
A message is placed on the Powys website: www.powys.gov.uk
Every effort is made to contact parents directly when unforeseen closures happen during the course of the school day. Parents should ensure that contact details remain up to date.
The easiest and most reliable way to check the school's status (especially in the event of snow) is to check the school or Powys website.

Attendance

Attendance is particularly important. Pupils are expected to arrive at school on time, dressed appropriately and ready to learn. Parents are expected to contact the school as soon as possible to explain their child's absence. This can either be done by phone, email or by means of a note or message from a member of the family. As it is necessary for us to make a note on our registers whether an absence is of an authorized or unauthorized nature, we kindly ask for a clear message from the family to that end.

Absence & Illness

Parents are required by law to ensure that children attend school regularly. Good attendance is critically important for a child's learning pattern to develop smoothly and for progress to be maintained. If your child misses school for any reason, please telephone, email or send a written message of explanation as soon as you can. In cases of long or frequent absences, or persistent lateness when arriving in school, the Education Welfare Officer is notified. No pupil will be allowed to leave school unless collected by a responsible adult when visiting the dentist etc. Please let the class teacher know if your child will be arriving late at school or is to be collected for an appointment. When returning to school after an appointment, an adult is required to sign the child back onto the school premises.

Holidays

We ask parents to try to arrange holidays during official school holidays. The link between good attendance and high standards is a very strong one and as such Powys are eager to encourage high attendance rates and to discourage holidays being taken during term time.

Lost Property

Although we attempt to encourage children to look after their property, children will be children and carelessness with personal property does and will occur.
It would be helpful if articles of clothing can be clearly marked with your child's name.

Health and Safety

The school grounds and buildings are subject to the same rules as other public buildings in terms of health and safety. The Governors, in cooperation with the Headteacher, carry out regular Health and Safety checks throughout the year. We are also subject to Health and Safety inspections by the local authority. A number of Health and Safety checks occur on a regular basis.
These include:

Termly fire drills for staff and children.

- Annual testing of alarms, extinguishers and emergency lighting.
- Annual testing of boilers and heating systems.

- Regular testing by the local authority for legionella.
- Electrical portable appliance testing.

School Security

The security of the pupils, staff and all visitors is of the utmost importance to the school and every effort is made to ensure that everyone involved should maintain a high level of awareness of security issues at all times.
We also aim to maintain maximum security of the site, buildings and contents of the school constantly.

School security is to be managed as a part of a continuing process, rather than in response to a particular incident. The school has a CCTV system in operation.

Visitors to the School

In order to ensure a safe environment for the children, all visitors must sign in and out at the main reception so that adults present on site are accounted for and are known to the staff.

All exterior doors are locked during the school day, and the only means of entering the building is through the main entrance, to the reception area for signing in.
All children are left in the care of their teachers no earlier than 8.45a.m. and collected no later than 3.35p.m unless they are attending After School Clubs. During this period of time the staff have the safety and well-being of the children as their ultimate concern throughout. No child may leave the school without prior consent from the parent/guardian, i.e. trips. Parents also need to be responsible for informing the school if another adult will be collecting the child at the end of the school day. No child will be handed over to an unauthorised person.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are held at least twice a year. All pupils are aware of the procedures upon entry into each new classroom at the beginning of the new school year. Regular inspections are made on the fire safety equipment and logs are kept. The local fire brigade occasionally visits the school to talk to the children about fire hazards and demonstrate the use of the fire engine and safety equipment

Parking Arrangements

Parents delivering or collecting children by car are asked to park in the designated car parking area. Please do not park and leave your car in the “Drop Off” zone.

School Meals

We have exceptionally good meals at Ysgol Bro Tawe which are provided by Powys Catering and are cooked on the premises by Mrs P. Newman.
Seasonal menus are sent out to parents via the school's messaging system 'Schoop'. The menu is also available to view on the school website and on the Parents' Noticeboard which is located in the Car Park. Special diets can be catered for by arrangement with Mrs. P Newman. Children may bring a packed lunch to eat in the dining hall if they prefer. Water is freely available for all pupils.

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 are entitled to a free school lunch under the Welsh Government's Universal Free School Meal Provision.

Children are not allowed to leave the premises at lunchtime unless this has been agreed with the head teacher. They must respect the supervisory assistants at all times and where children cannot meet our expected code of behaviour during this period, parents will be asked to make alternative arrangements for them.

In addition to free meals, help may be available for other school expenses such as trips and uniform, for children whose families are in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based)
- If you are an Asylum Seeker getting support under the Immigration and Asylum Act.
- State Pension Guaranteed Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance - Income based
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you are not getting an amount for childcare paid with your CTC, or getting Working Tax Credit. HM Revenue & Customs must also have worked out your household income as £16,190 a year or less.
- Universal Credit - as long as your annual net earnings are £7400 or less
- Working Tax Credit, 'run-on' payment.

- You apply online on the Powys website.

Healthy Eating

We encourage children to eat a wide range of fruit and / or vegetables. No chocolate or crisps are allowed at break times. When children start school they are provided with a water bottle to encourage early good habits of drinking water.

Uniform

WINTER UNIFORM

GIRLS:

Jade Sweatshirt with logo
Jade Cardigan with logo
White Polo Shirt
Grey Trousers / Grey
Pinafore Dress /Grey skirt
Grey or White Tights / Socks
Black Shoes

BOYS:

Jade Sweatshirt with logo
White Polo Shirt
Grey Trousers
Grey Socks
Black Sh

All our school uniform can be purchased from
Order Uniform UK: 01792 869990
4, Swansea Road
Pontardawe
Swansea,
SA8 4AB

Pethau Plant : 01639 849111
16 Station Road
Ystradgynlais, Swansea

SUMMER UNIFORM

GIRLS:

Jade Sweatshirt with logo
Jade Cardigan with logo
White Polo Shirt
Navy Shorts
Jade Gingham Dress
White Socks
White or Black trainers

BOYS:

Jade Sweatshirt with logo
White Polo Shirt
Navy Shorts
White or Black trainers

Please label all items of clothing with your child's name as an aid to identification.

PE Kit

White T shirt and navy shorts, with trainers for outdoor PE.
Football boots may be worn for football or rugby lessons and shin pads are required for Football Club. Children are expected to have a change of clothes for PE for reasons of hygiene. They should have both indoor and outdoor kit in school on PE days.

In the interest of pupil safety it is advisable that jewellery should not be worn to school. However, we appreciate that watches are important and are therefore acceptable. The only permissible exception is the wearing of small stud backed earrings. (Hoop earrings are not to be worn by pupils). However, these **must** be removed during P. E. lessons by the pupils and are the responsibility of the owner and not the staff in school.

Home-School Contacts

Communication between home and school is essential to the happiness and success of the children. We encourage parents to maintain a dialogue with teachers and to make contact whenever the need arises, whether it is to raise an issue of concern, share information about events outside of school or to celebrate a child's successes. Whatever the issue, parents are always welcome to contact the school. The school operates an 'open door' policy when parents are invited to discuss their child's progress. However, since teachers are employed to teach, it would be appreciated if parents could make an appointment outside teaching hours to discuss any problems, anxieties or to discuss progress.

School newsletters are sent home on a regular basis with information about dates, events and developments at school. These are shared via Schoop.

In addition to the above the school organises the Autumn and Summer Term Open Evenings.

Headteacher-Parent Consultation

The Headteacher positively encourages parents to play a prominent role in the education of their children. If any parent wishes to discuss any matter of relevance to the progress of their child they are more than welcome to arrange an appointment to see the Headteacher and to discuss the matter.

The Headteacher operates an 'open door' policy and encourages parents to contact her with any concerns they may have.

Pastoral Care Arrangements

The school aims to create a warm, caring and secure atmosphere. Parents / guardians home and work telephone numbers are recorded. All accidents and illnesses are reported to the Headteacher and parents / guardians are contacted if further medical attention is necessary. If immediate hospital treatment is required, resulting from an accident or illness, an ambulance will be called to take the pupil to hospital and parents will be contacted.
Class teachers supervise morning and afternoon breaks. Supervisory staff are on duty for the lunch time break.

Medical Provision

There are regular medical and dental inspections in school which are carried out by the school medical service. Parents are asked to sign a form to allow inspections to occur. Parents will be informed in advance if their child is to be seen and may attend if they so wish.

Medication in School

Staff will administer medication to a child who is diagnosed with a chronic illness (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy etc.) Parents are required to administer any medication which has been prescribed for common illnesses, including antibiotics.

Illness or Accident at School

If your child is ill or has an accident, we will let you know and usually ask you to collect him/her. We keep all contact telephone numbers on file and expect parents to inform us immediately if numbers or addresses change. In the case of a serious injury, we try to contact the parent as soon as possible and ensure that the child is taken to a hospital, which is nearby. The accident book will be completed following minor incidents, but all head injuries will result in immediate contact by telephone. Any major accident will be recorded in the accident book and accident forms will be filled out and sent to the LA.

Home/School Agreement

Every school is required to produce a home-school agreement which outlines the commitment that both parties make to each other in ensuring a quality education for the children, in other words…

- The school's responsibility to its pupils
- The responsibility of the pupil's parents
- What the school expects of its pupils

A copy of the home-school agreement will be provided for parents to sign when they first admit their child to the school.

Discipline and School Rules

Children are expected to behave in a courteous and orderly manner at all times. The standard of conduct is that expected of a good family: sympathy, tolerance and understanding on the one hand call for courtesy, co-operating and zeal on the other.

Sanctions administered for misdemeanours will be at all times reasonable and moderate and such as a parent might expect a child to receive for doing wrong.

School discipline is a matter for all people concerned with school. If a child fails to respond, his/her parents will be invited to school to discuss his/her behaviour.

Continued serious misbehaviour may result in the exclusion of the child for a specific period of time. This would be done after consultation with the Chair of Governors.

Bullying

Bullying within the school is totally unacceptable and we will take immediate action to resolve the problem.

However, bullying, either verbal or physical can take place unknown to the school or parents. Watch for signs of distress in your children. There could be an unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of headaches or stomach aches, or even a request for extra pocket money. Please remember, if you think that your child is being bullied please contact the school IMMEDIATELY. Bullying will not be tolerated at Ysgol Bro Tawe.

A copy of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy is available on the school's website.

Restorative Practice

<u>What is Restorative Practice?</u>

Restorative processes bring those harmed by crime or conflict, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.
Our school is positive and child centered, with a strong emphasis on pupil voice, personal responsibility and emotional literacy.

We believe in talking, sharing and working through our problems.

Rights Respecting School

Ysgol Bro Tawe aims to be a school where every aspect of a child is focused on and developed, including the area of well-being. As part of our school's aims to promote a happy and successful school, we are working towards recognition as a *"Rights Respecting School."* This is an award given to schools on behalf of UNICEF.

The Rights Respecting School award (RRSA) helps our pupils to grow into confident, caring and responsible young citizens both in school and within the wider community. By learning about their rights our pupils, your children, also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others i.e. their responsibilities.

Our school mascot is Brodie the Bro Tawe bear.

Playground Ethos

Since a proportion of the school day is spent in the school playground, it is important that children are encouraged to develop attitudes of fairness, honesty, tolerance and kindness. The following are suggestions:

- Be kind and considerate to everybody in the playground (especially younger friends.)
- Look after our playground and place all rubbish in the litter bins.
- Share the playground space so that other games, besides football and rugby, can be played.
- If we are in the middle of something very exciting or important we must stop and listen to any instructions an adult may give us.

A Curriculum For Wales – A Curriculum For Life

At Ysgol Bro Tawe we are embracing the curriculum for Wales. Our curriculum focuses on equipping young people for life. It will build pupils' ability to learn new skills and apply their subject knowledge more positively and creatively. As the world changes, they will be more able to adapt positively.

They will also get a deep understanding of how to thrive in an increasingly digital world, preparing them for the opportunities and risks that an online world presents.

The purpose of the curriculum is to support our children and young people to be:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

Pupils will focus on six Areas of Learning and Experience.

- Expressive arts.
- Health and well-being.
- Humanities (including RE which should remain compulsory to age 16).
- Languages, literacy and communication (including Welsh, which should remain compulsory to age 16).
- Mathematics and numeracy.
- Science and technology.

It will also include three cross-curricular responsibilities: literacy, numeracy and digital competence.

Additional Learning Needs

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 ('the Act') aims to create:

- a unified legislative framework to support all children of compulsory school age or below with additional learning needs (ALN) and to support young people with ALN who are in school or further education (FE)
- an integrated, collaborative process of assessment, planning and monitoring which facilitates early, timely and effective interventions
- a fair and transparent system for providing information and advice, and for resolving concerns and appeals.

At Ysgol Bro Tawe we consider the progress each child is making in line with their benchmark. We are able to offer a range of support for pupils identified as having Additional Learning Needs. If a pupil continues to under-function or his/her development is a cause for further concern the school will refer the child to the Powys Inclusion Panel who will provide further assistance.

It is important to emphasise that More Able and Talented children may also require special provision to be made available. The school, working closely with the parents will do its utmost to provide the necessary challenge and educational provision.

Sex & Relationships Education

The school policy on Sex and Relationship Education has been approved by the Governing Body and is in line with the LEA policy. As recommended by the Welsh Assembly Government the school has a graduated, age appropriate SRE programme emphasising the social and emotional aspects of relationships. During their final summer term before transferring to secondary schools, Year 6 pupils have a series of SRE lessons with the support of the school nurse which covers the physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty, including conception, pregnancy and birth. Parents have the option to include their children in these sessions or remove them if they wish.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The main purpose of assessment is to build up a picture of pupils' achievements over time and to identify the next steps in pupils' learning. Teacher Assessment is part of everyday teaching and learning. It is a continuous process and not a separate activity which necessarily requires the use of extra tasks or tests.

Pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 undertake the Welsh Government's Personalised Assesments in Literacy and Numeracy during the Autumn and Summer Term. The results of these tests are analysed by class teachers to see how our pupils can be best supported in their learning.

During the Autumn Term and Summer Term, parents/carers are invited to meet their child's class teacher to discuss progress and share pupils' individual targets. Targets are regularly reviewed and shared with parents.

During the Summer Term, parents/carers will receive a written Annual Report on their child.

This Annual Report will include:

Comments on your child's progress in the six Areas of Learning and Experience;
A comment from the head teacher or class teacher on general progress and attendance record;
Targets indicating the pupil's next steps in learning.
An indication of the person to whom the parent should talk to discuss the report.

Arrangements for Religion, Values and Ethics. (RVE)

RVE is an element of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and it is mandatory for all pupils aged 3 - 16. RVE is taught in accordance with the Authority's locally agreed syllabus. Clearly, by its very nature, RVE makes an important and distinctive contribution to supporting the four purposes, since it is essentially concerned with the process of exploring the religious understanding of human life and the value systems that societies seek to establish.
Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship which is held daily if they wish to do so and suitable arrangements will be made for the child's supervision.

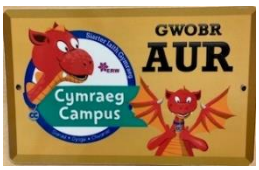
The Teaching of Welsh

Welsh is taught as a second language to children of all ages by the class teacher. In addition to acquiring vocabulary and learning sentence patterns in lessons, children respond to Welsh used incidentally during the course of the day. Some lessons lend themselves easily to be taught through the medium of Welsh; this gives the language a meaning and purpose for the pupil.

The teaching of Welsh and English either as a first or second language is an essential requirement in the curriculum of each class in every primary school in Powys.

In addition, regular use is made of incidental, informal Welsh in the life of the school and, where appropriate, Welsh is used as a medium for teaching.

During their time at Ysgol Bro Tawe, all children develop an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales through aspects of the curriculum and involvement in different activities. The school was awarded the Cymraeg Campus Gold Award in July 2025.



'Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig'

The nature of the whole curriculum at Bro Tawe also reflects the distinctiveness of the 'Cwricwlwm Cymreig' - a curriculum concerned with Wales where the children's learning experiences are made meaningful and relevant in the context of the local and wider community.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Progression in the Mathematics and Numeracy Area of Learning and Experience (Area) involves the development of five connected and interdependent proficiencies. These are:

- Conceptual understanding
- Communication using symbols
- Fluency
- Logical reasoning
- Strategic competence

At Ysgol Bro Tawe, pupils develop their mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding through learning about and using number, measures, money and shape, position and movement and data handling.

In Bro Tawe, we follow detailed planning structures devised by the individual class teachers, using various Maths Schemes and coordinated by the Numeracy Area of Learning Experience Team. Concepts are reinforced by the use of a range of resources such as computers, calculators and mathematical apparatus and games. The school recognises the importance of oral maths and understanding the language of maths, and the children are regularly helped to develop their skills in mental maths, as well as learning to apply their mathematical skills in everyday situations.

Literacy

In Bro Tawe, children are encouraged from an early age to build confidence in speaking clearly, in the classroom, assemblies or other public places. Their ability to listen and respond intelligently is being nurtured at the same time. Learning to read and then reading to learn is of utmost importance for the children.
Reading is an activity, which dominates the school day at Bro Tawe, whether a pupil is engrossed in a good story, working out how to answer a scientific question, or practising singing a song!

There are varied reading schemes used throughout the school which all have a variety of interesting, informative or amusing stories which children really enjoy. Many other reading books are available.

We celebrate the “World Book Day” annually and children are given vouchers, which can be exchanged for books at any bookshop.

The school has a structured approach to the teaching of spelling, handwriting and the understanding of how language works. Children are taught to write in a variety of forms, such as inventing a story, composing a poem, reporting news or recording an experiment.

The school also participates in many competitions outside the school and we are very proud of our achievements at local and national level.

Humanities

History

Ysgol Bro Tawe adopts an enquiry-based approach to History, teaching children to ask questions of historical sources and to answer them with available evidence. As well as studying selected periods of the history of Wales and Britain, pupils learn about local history, with visits and outings in the local area being an important element of this.

Geography

This is delivered through cross-curricular thematic approach based on practical activities, independent research and fieldwork in the local area. Powys and Swansea offer a rich resource for the study of the environment, with notable coastal, river-valley and upland features. It has a variety of land uses for the children to explore locally, localities abroad are also investigated in comparative studies and pupils make use of a variety of resources to enhance a wide range of mapping and other skills. Pupils are always encouraged to identify links with cultural diversity, sustainability and develop into caring and effective global citizens.

Science & Technology

At Ysgol Bro Tawe we aim to provide authentic opportunities which will inspire our pupils to become inquisitive and curious about Science and Technology. We want our learners to ask questions, plan approaches and make informed judgements. Exploring real-life phenomena will ignite our learners' imagination and provide opportunities to explore within and beyond their local context. Through this area we hope to equip our pupils with the scientific and technological skills and knowledge to adapt to the ever-changing technological world we live in and develop a deeper understanding of how science and technology together impact our daily lives.

Physical Education

Ysgol Bro Tawe places great emphasis on involving all pupils in a wide range of sport activities and on the value of participation in sport and recreational activities for fun, health and physical development. Children have access to a good range of sports facilities. Specific skills are taught, focusing on a different aspect each term, such as dance, athletics, gymnastics, outdoor education and games. Children, from Year one, have the opportunity to have swimming lessons in the local pool during the school year. All children have P.E. and games lesson every week. Annual sports day is held in the summer term.

Expressive Arts

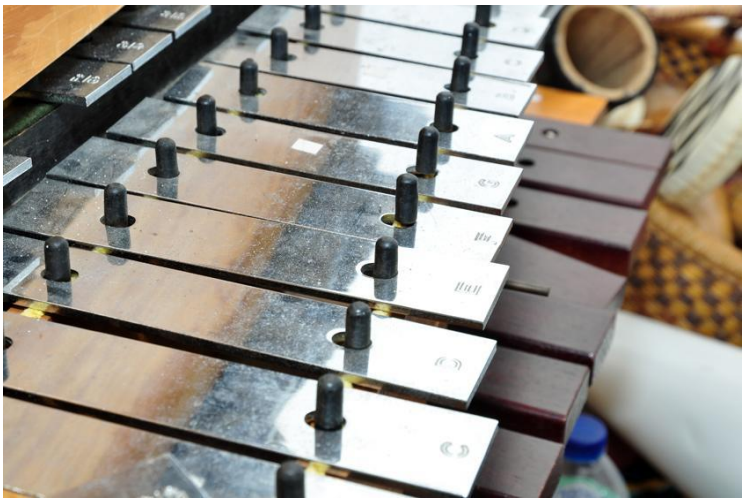
Art

A variety of art, craft and design activities are undertaken, through which children learn to understand, make and investigate art, craft and design. From time to time artists visit the school to work with the children. These activities vary from pottery/ceramics, mosaics, collage, photography etc.

Music

Performing, Composing and Appraising are three important aspects of music. From Year 3 onward, all pupils are given the opportunity to receive piano, brass and woodwind tuition from visiting peripatetic teachers. Ysgol Bro Tawe has a choir and along with instrumentalists regularly perform for parents, peers, staff and others.

Instrumental tuition lessons are provided on a weekly basis at a reasonable cost, which is fixed at the discretion of the school, according to overall costs and demand. Instruments are provided by the school for loan during periods of tuition and home practice. These are then returned to the school's possession on pupil transition to the comprehensive school.



Extra-Curricular Activities

We provide a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for pupils in Year 3 onwards. These include football, rugby, netball, homework, computer and Forest Schools. All clubs are free of charge and rotate throughout the year depending on weather and staffing.

Over their time at Ysgol Bro Tawe pupils we aim to give children the opportunity to take part in inter - school matches and to join with other schools for various activities e.g. Theatre Productions, Educational Visits and Swimming Galas.

Children are encouraged to take an active part in local community life and to put on productions to entertain the community in school and at the local Welfare Hall e.g. St. David's Day, Christmas concerts.

Throughout the year, children usually have opportunities to visit the theatre and places of interest to support the work done in the Curriculum. During the year pupils in Year 5 & 6 usually have the opportunity to go on residential visits.

In-service Training

In-service training and curricular development is organised during the academic year. On these days the school will be closed for pupils. Appropriate warnings of the dates of closure will be given.

Pupil Councils

Ysgol Bro Tawe recognises the importance of the pupil voice and making them part of the decision making process. We have a School Council, Eco Council and a Healthy School Council. All the pupils at the school are given a chance to vote for children from their class, after reading / listening to their manifesto, to serve on our councils each year.

The School's Eco Council meet with teachers and governors to discuss the issues of sustainability, citizenship and environmental awareness and to consider ways in which Bro Tawe can be improved now and for pupils of the future.

It is the job of the Eco-Council to continually promote the 5R's:-

Reduce
Re-use
Recycle
Restore
Respect

Healthy Schools

Ysgol Bro Tawe is a Health Promoting School. We are very proud to have been awarded the Healthy Schools National Quality Award and the Powys Excellence Award. We have a wide range of initiatives that are embedded into school life to promote good health, fitness and wellbeing.

"There can be no doubt that Ysgol Bro Tawe is a truly healthy school and fully deserving of its National Quality Award. During the achievement visit it was very apparent that the concept of the healthy school and the protection and promotion of the physical and mental wellbeing of everyone connected to the school, are fully and completely at the core of the life and culture of Ysgol Bro Tawe." John Griffiths 2020

Sport

The school encourages all children to take part in many sporting and physical activities offered by the school. Opportunities for taking part in sporting activities mainly occur during Years 3 to 6 and are usually part of the Physical Education programme of study. During the Autumn and Spring Terms, participation in rugby, football and netball is encouraged while in the Summer Term, the opportunity is there to participate in athletics, tennis and cricket.

Swimming also forms part of the curriculum for Physical Education and pupils visit Ystradgynlais Leisure Centre for their lessons.

Equal Opportunities

At Ysgol Bro Tawe ….

We do not discriminate against anyone, be they staff or pupil, on the grounds of their sex, race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins. This is in line with the 1976 Race Relations Act and covers both direct and indirect discrimination.
We promote the principles of fairness and justice for all through the education that we provide in our school.
We ensure that all pupils have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school.
We constantly strive to remove any forms of indirect discrimination that may form barriers to learning.
We ensure that all recruitment, employment, promotion and training systems are fair to all, and provide opportunities for everyone to achieve.
We challenge stereotyping and prejudice whenever it occurs.
We celebrate the cultural diversity of Wales and the UK and show respect for all minority groups.
We are aware that prejudice and stereotyping is caused by low self-image and ignorance.
Through positive educational experiences and support for each individual's point of view, we aim to promote positive social attitudes and respect for all.

Disabled Access

Outside access via wheelchair is available to the main entrance, for pupils, parents and visitors with physical disabilities.
At Bro Tawe we are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are further committed to challenging attitudes about disability and accessibility and developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

Children with Disabilities

The school welcomes all children and in consultations with the local authority ALN team and any agency involved with the child will seek to ensure that the child's needs may be catered for.

Complaints Procedure

We hope that you will be happy with the education that your child receives in Ysgol Bro Tawe. However, if you are dissatisfied in any way, you should first discuss the matter with your child's class teacher or the Headteacher.

If they are unable to resolve the matter, the Headteacher or chair of governors will provide you with details of the School complaints procedures. A copy of the school Complaints Policy is also available on the school website. It is inappropriate to discuss complaints with individual governors as they are the final arbiters on complaints.

Further advice about complaints may be obtained from the Education Department, School and Governor Section. Tel–01597 826000.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

All members of staff within this school are responsible for the safety and protection of the children who attend. If there are concerns regarding neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse then, under the County's Safeguarding Procedures, staff are duty bound to report the matter to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs B Evans and/or the Deputy Designated Officers, Miss J Williams and Mrs L. Morgan.

Mrs B Evans is also the school's Designated Teacher for Children Looked After.

The school's Safeguarding Officer may consult with professional colleagues as well as relevant agencies such as Health and Social Services. Following these discussions the school's Safeguarding Officer may be obliged to make an official referral to the Social Services Department in accordance with county guidelines and protocol. It is the Social Services Department who decides on the next course of action.

Due to the nature of allegations it may not always be appropriate to discuss matters with parents prior to making a referral. The responsibility for investigating allegations lies with Social Services and the Police.

The school has adopted an e-safety policy.

Charging and Remissions

In accordance with Section 110 of the 1988 Education Act the Governing Body has decided on the following Charging and Remissions Policy:

When activities requiring additional payment occur it may be necessary to ask for voluntary contributions or donations. Examples of such activities are: transport for swimming, field study visits, outdoor pursuit courses, visits to the Urdd Camp at Llangrannog and Membership of the Urdd. However, the Governors of Ysgol Bro Tawe stipulate that there is no obligation to contribute and no pupil will be omitted from the activity.

Inspection of Documents

Documents required to be available by regulation may be inspected, and where appropriate copied at the school during school hours by arrangement with the Headteacher.

Homework

The school has a positive homework policy. However, the setting of homework for pupils is at the discretion of the class teacher. Parents are encouraged to work alongside their child and help with homework. A weekly Homework club is held for pupils in Years 3 to 6, where teachers are on hand to support the homework activity.

Attendance 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

The percentage attendance for the academic year 2023 - 2024 was 91.54% with an authorised absence figure of 7.37% and unauthorized absence figure of 1.1%. The percentage attendance for the academic year 2024 - 2025 was 92.67% with an authorised absence figure of 5.85% and unauthorized absence figure of 1.48%.

Attendance Penalty Notice

The Welsh Government (WG) Education (Penalty Notice) Wales Regulations 2013 states that Local Authorities (LA's) are required by law to adhere to the Education Act 1996 section 444 to include
Penalty notices as one of the interventions to promote better school attendance.

Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996 provide that certain cases of unauthorized absences can be dealt with by way of a penalty notice. A penalty notice is a fine of up to £120 and may be issued to a parent /carer as a result of a child's regular non-attendance at school / educational provision.

The school adheres to the code of conduct for penalty notices as issued by the Welsh Government and agreed by your Local Authority, and therefore may request the local authority to issue a penalty notice in certain cases.

Conclusion

At Ysgol Bro Tawe, we endeavour to provide our pupils with the highest quality of education. We have a caring, committed and enthusiastic staff who are dedicated to working alongside our parents so that children in our care receive the best possible start in life.